

Mayor Mark Mallory

City of Cincinnati

801 Plum Street, Room 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Date: March 21, 2006

Contact: Jason Barron, 513-352-5356

Mayor Mallory and City Council Hold Special Session with County Commissioners to discuss the Banks

Cincinnati – Mayor Mark Mallory, the Cincinnati City Council, and the Hamilton County Commissioners held a joint public meeting today to discuss the proposed riverfront development known as The Banks. The meeting was chaired by Mayor Mallory and held at the Great American Ball Park in the "4,192 Club"

"The Banks Development is an incredible opportunity to do some thing special for our region," Mayor Mallory said. "Both the city and the county have a tremendous interest in seeing this project move forward, and naturally both want to ensure that they each protect their interests. We all must come together on an agreement that will protect everyone's interests, while moving this project forward."

The meeting began with a presentation on behalf of the County by Tom Gabelman, special project counsel for the Commissioners on Riverfront Projects. The presentation reviewed the history of the riverfront redevelopment over the last 10 years, and presented an overview of work that the county has done over the last several months. The presentation included details about both the financial structure of the plan and design of the development, including computer generated pictures of the final project. The County outlined the schedule for the project as it moves forward.

The presentation described a proposed Joint City-County Advisory Board that would be responsible for analyzing the Requests for Qualifications and selecting the developer for the project. The presentation by the county and the questions by the council also reiterated everyone's commitment to inclusion for small business, minority-owned business, and woman-owned business in the final project.

After the presentation, Council Members asked questions about the project. Council Members asked questions and expressed concerns about a variety of specifics of the project. Some Council Members also questioned the expected costs of the project and the proposed funding mechanisms. Many members made several suggestions including suggesting that the city and county issue a Request for Proposals.